GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:191
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015
. CONVICTION UNDER SC ST ACT+191
Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of conviction under the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has decreased and the pendency of cases is increasing significantly;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the proper implementation of the said Act and to ensure early disposal of the pending cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a):- As per the data of the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the following table indicates all India position for years 2011-2013, in regard to percentage of cases under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities{PoA}Act, 1989, ending in convi- ction as well pending in courts:-

Year	% of : Conviction	Pendency
2011	30.0	79.9
2012	23.8	83.1
2013	22.8	84.1

The above table whereas indicates a marginal variation in the pendency rate and a decline in the conviction rate during 2011-2013.

(b): The State/UT wise percentage of cases under the PoA Act, ending in conviction and pending during 2011-2013, is indicated in the statement annexed.

The conviction rate may be influenced by several factors like witnesses turning hostile, belated prosecution, loss of interest by the victim and witnesses due to long delay in completion of trial, absence of corroborative evidence.

(c): The PoA Act is implemented by the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. With a view to ensure effective implementation of provisions of the Act, Central assistance is provided to States/Union Territories, which includes strengthening of the enfor- cement machinery, incentive for inter caste marriages and awareness generation.

This Ministry has been addressing them to implement provisions of the Act in letter and spirit, with specific emphasis on setting up of exclusive special courts for speedy trial of cases, sensitization of investigating officers, mass awareness programmes, review of cases ending in acquittal. Ministry of Home Affairs has also been advising them, inter-alia, regarding steps that need to be taken to afford a greater measure of protection to SCs and STs.

A Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Minster for Social Justice & Empowerment which was constituted in the year 2006, also reviews implementation of the Act in State/UTs. The Committee has so far held twenty one meetings wherein implementation of the Act in 24 States and 4 Union Territories has been reviewed.